

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/RPE:DHSWARTZ/DLAMB:RP

APPROVED BY EUR/RPE: MR. PREEG

OES - MR. BENGELSDORF

OES - MR. PROCHNIK

FSE - MR. BOSWORTH

ERDA - MR. VANDERRYN

S/P - MR. KAHAN

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TO USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 230699

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, OECD, IEA

SUBJECT: WOOTTON CONSULTATIONS: POSSIBLE US FULL MEMBER-SHIP IN NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY (NEA)

1. DURING FIRST DAY OF HIS WASHINGTON CONSULTATION, SEPT. 22, OECD DEPSECGEN WOOTTON WAS JOINED BY NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL IAN WILLIAMS. IN CALLS ON STATE, FEA, AND ERDA OFFICIALS BOTH MADE STRONG PITCH FOR USG BECOMING FULL MEMBER OF NEA AND CLARIFYING INTER-RELATIONSHIP OF NEA AND IEA IN NUCLEAR WORK.

2. MAIN POINTS MADE BY WOOTTON AND WILLIAMS WERE:

A) US IS LAST REMAINING NEA ASSOCIATE MEMBER. (FINLAND

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AND NEW ZEALAND ARE ONLY OECD COUNTRIES NOT ASSOCIATED AT

ALL WITH NEA, AND FINLAND IS EXPECTED TO JOIN AS OF NEXT JANUARY 1, ACCORDING TO WILLIAMS.)

B) PROPOSAL FOR EXPANSION OF NEA INTO "OECD ERDA" IS "ON THE SHELF," AND WILLIAMS INDICATED HIS PERSONAL DISINCLINATION TO RESURRECT IT.

C) NEA HAS INCREASED ITS 1975 BUDGET BY AROUND 9 PERCENT (IN REAL TERMS) OVER 1974. ANOTHER 9-10 PERCENT BUDGET

GROWTH WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR 1976 (WITHIN PRELIMINARY FISCAL PROPOSAL CURRENTLY BEING FORMULATED, BUT THIS WILL REQUIRE US MEMBERSHIP.

D) 19-20 PERCENT INCREASE IN NEA ACTIVITY IN 1975/76 LARGELY SPEAKS TO ASSUMED USG CONCERN THAT ITS 25 PERCENT ASSESSMENT OF TOTAL NEA BUDGET (SHOULD IT JOIN) BE REFLECTED IN PROGRAM EXPANSION RATHER THAN DUES REDUCTION FOR OTHER NEA MEMBERS.

E) NEA CONTEMPLATED 1976 DRAFT BUDGET HIKE WOULD COVER COST OF INCREASING PROFESSIONAL STAFF BY FOUR OR FIVE. WILLIAMS ENVISAGED THAT THIS WOULD INCLUDE SECOND DEPUTY DIRECTOR POSITION (FOR SCIENCE AND DEVELOPMENT), TWO ADDITIONAL POSITIONS TO WORK ON NUCLEAR SAFETY PROGRAM, AND ONE MORE FOR NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT.

F) PERSONNEL EXPANSION OUTLINED IN "E" ABOVE LARGELY RELATED TO PROGRAMS NEA IS WORKING ON AT LEAST PARTIALLY AT BEHEST OF IEA.

G) CONCERNING EVOLVING IEA/NEA INTERACTION IN GENERAL, WILLIAMS AT ONE POINT EXPRESSLY STATED HIS VIEW THAT THIS WOULD BE CONTRACTOR (IEA)-CONTRACTEE (NEA) RELATIONSHIP. ALTHOUGH IT COULD NOT BE SPELLED OUT IN SO MANY WORDS DUE TO FRENCH (AND AUSTRALIAN) SENSITIVITIES.

H) SINCE NEA NOT LIKELY TO BECOME OECD ERDA, WILLIAMS CONSIDERS IT "LOGICAL" TO EXPECT THAT IEA WILL ACQUIRE A SMALL R&D SECRETARIAT.  
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I) WILLIAMS FEELS THAT FRENCH (AND POSSIBLY AUSTRALIAN) OBJECTIONS TO NEA PERFORMING WORK FOR IEA WILL LARGELY EVAPORATE WITH US MEMBERSHIP IN (AND FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO) NEA. FURTHER, FRENCH OBSTRUCTIONISM WOULD NEVER BE INSURMOUNTABLE IN ANY EVENT SINCE NEA DECISION-MAKING APPARATUS OPERATES BY CONSENSUS.

J) US PARTICIPATION WOULD ENTITLE IT TO "ONE OF VERY SENIOR POSITIONS: IN NEA SECRETARIAT. THIS IS SOMEWHAT DELICATE, HOWEVER, SINCE JAPAN HAS BEEN NEA MEMBER SINCE 1972, BEARS 22 PERCENT OF FINANCIAL LOAD, AND AS YET HAS NO-ONE IN SECRETARIAT. (COMMENT: WILLIAMS INDICATED HIS DESIRE THAT JAPANESE WOULD FILL HIS HOPED-FOR ADDITIONAL DEPUTY DIRECTOR POSITION. IN VIEW OF EXPECTED RETIREMENT OF NEA DIRECTOR GENERAL SAELAND, WILLIAMS DOUBTEDLESSLY HOPES TO MOVE UP TO TOP JOB, PRESUMABLY ANTICIPATING THAT HE WOULD BE REPLACED BY AN AMERICAN. END COMMENT)

3. WASHINGTON OFFICIALS STRESSED FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) US HAS MADE NO DECISION REGARDING NEA MEMBERSHIP

B) WE PLACE PRIORITY ON THE PROPER ORGANIZATION OF THE R&D PROGRAM WITHIN IEA (INCLUDING RECRUITMENT OF SMALL STAFF TO HANDLE R&D). US COULD NOT JOIN NEA BEFORE THIS MATTER TAKEN CARE OF WITHOUT CONFUSING OTHER OECD COUNTRIES REGARDING US ENERGY POLICY OBJECTIVES IN THE OECD.

C) OUR ADVICE WOULD BE, THEREFORE, THAT NEA SHOULD PREPARE ITS 1976 BUDGET ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT US WOULD NOT JOIN. AS IN 1975, A REVISED BUDGET COULD BE SUBMITTED IN MID-YEAR IF CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGED.

D) WE ARE PLEASED WITH RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN IEA AND NEA ON NUCLEAR R&D, IN WHICH THE IEA PLAYS THE POLICY ROLE AND NEA PERFORMS THE TECHNICAL WORK. THESE ARE THE APPROPRIATE ROLES FOR THE TWO AGENCIES AND SHOULD BE MAINTAINED IN THE FUTURE, WHETHER OR NOT US BECOMES FULL MEMBER.

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E) WE WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS QUESTION WITH WOOTTON AND WILLIAMS AND WILL TAKE THEIR VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT. ASSUMING IEA R&D PROGRAM EVOLVES IN SATISFACTORY WAY, WE WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE QUESTION OF NEA MEMBERSHIP SERIOUS ATTENTION LATE THIS YEAR OR EARLY IN 1976. KISSINGER

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